



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY **NEWS RELEASE**

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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New Cathode Ray Tube Regulations Will Also Apply To Cell-Phones, VCRs and Other Consumer Electronic Devices

Sacramento --- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Ed Lowry announced today that regulations affecting the management of cathode ray tubes (CRTs – televisions and computer monitors) and consumer electronic devices (CEDs – cell phones, computer hard drives, stereo equipment, video cassette recorders, digital video disc players, microwaves, computer printers, and cordless telephones) were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and filed with the Secretary of State.

“These regulations allow for the safe and efficient collection, recycling and re-use of electronic equipment and electronic waste (e-waste)”, said Lowry. “They employ universal waste management practices for CRTs and an array of consumer electronic devices.”

The new regulations require generators to improve the handling and storage of waste CRTs to prevent the release of lead contained in the CRT units. The regulations reiterate the State’s ban of disposal of CRTs in municipal landfills, however, they permit disposal of CEDs in municipal landfills until 2006, after which that practice will also be banned.

Universal wastes are commonly used items such as batteries, mercury thermometers and fluorescent tubes that are used and discarded in homes and business and contain hazardous materials. A typical 17-inch computer monitor contains approximately 2.2 pounds of lead. A 27-inch television can contain up to eight pounds of lead. As a universal waste, these wastes are not subject to traditional hazardous waste requirements, but are subject to management controls based on the risk they pose to the environment and public health.

The new regulations are only part of a long term solution for e-waste. That solution is being sought by DTSC in cooperation with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and a variety of stakeholders. While it is being developed, DTSC, CIWMB, and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) encourage owners of older electronic equipment to recycle or arrange for reuse whenever possible. Links to a variety of programs are listed below.

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The new regulations are available at the DTSC website at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegulationsPolicies/CRTs/CRT_final_regs.html. To find a CRT recycler in your county, you may use DTSC's website at www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/CRT_Recyclers/counties_map.html or www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/CRTs. A "Best Management Practices" guide is also available for use on the DTSC website for use by CRT handlers.

Designation of CRTs and CEDs as universal waste is part of the Cal/EPA's strategy to develop technologies and an infrastructure to recover and recycle materials that would otherwise become hazardous waste. This strategy includes Cal/EPA's participation in the National Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative, which is an effort to develop voluntary end-of-life management strategies, and encourage manufacturers, governmental agencies, and environmental groups to work together to reduce E-waste.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."